among the youth to make them useful citizens capable of providing leadership in all walks of life including the Armed Forces. NCC is not intended to serve as a feeder organisation for recruitment to the Armed Forces.

(c) and (d) a committee has been constituted to conduct a comprehensive review of the working of the NCC and to suggest ways and means to improve and expand its functioning. The committee will also, inter alia, examine the feasibility of increasing the strength of NCC girl cadets.

Condition of National Highways

3045. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rajmargon ki durdasa mein dhan ki kami nahin, laparavahi ka haath" appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated May 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the issues raised in the newsitem referred to in the question. To remedy these problems several measures like simplification of procedures for land acqusition, early environmental clearance and proper project appraisal have recently been taken. With these measures, it is expected that the implementation of projects would be smooth and fast.

River Water Distribution

3046. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new schedule has been made for river water distribution between India and Bangladesh during dry season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expert of the River Commission has given any suggestion regarding distribution of river water between India and Bangladesh recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Defence Modernisation Programme

3047. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether delay in plan formulation and tight-fisted funding have installed India's ambitious defence modernisation programme;

(b) whether during the seventh and eighth plan period, the funding of ambitious defence modernisation programmes was not undertaken;

(c) if so, whether there is no mention of modernisation of defence programmes, during Ninth Plan period also;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to prepare modernisation programme during the Ninth Plan to make our defence forces stronger; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) India's defence modernisation effort is an on-going process within the parameters of available resources and defence priorities.

(b) to (e) Funds are made available for prioritised defence modernisation programme from within the allocated budget for this purpose. Within the financial parameters anticipated, projections for the prioritised modernisation programmes for the 9th Plan period have been drawn up. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge the details of defence modernisation programmes.

Integrated Anti-Missile Defence Programme

3048. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for an Integrated anti-missile defence programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not planning the programme earlier in view of missile developments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Government have received a proposal for development of this system. It is not in national security interest to give further details at this juncture.